optical path of the light.

2. (Amended) The laser assembly of claim 1, wherein the first distance and the second distance define an optical path length between the source and the reflective element measured in wavelengths, and wherein the optical path length remains constant over the range of wavelengths.

10. (Amended) The laser assembly of claim 2, wherein the range of wavelengths comprises from about 1520nm to about 1560nm.

13. (Amended) A tunable laser comprising source means for providing a light along an optical path with any wavelength selected from a bandwidth of wavelengths, a diffractive element positioned in the optical path and spaced from the source by a first distance to redirect the light, a reflective element positioned in the optical path and spaced from the diffractive element by a second distance to receive the redirected light from the diffractive element and to redirect the light back towards the diffractive element, the light being redirected by the diffractive element back towards the source, and an electrically-driven micro-actuator for selecting the wavelength from the bandwidth of wavelengths by altering the optical path of the light, the micro-actuator including a substrate and at least one rotary comb drive carried by the substrate.

16. (Amended) A method for providing light with any wavelength selected from a range of wavelengths, comprising the steps of providing the light along an optical path, providing a diffractive element in the optical path to diffract the light, providing a reflective element in the optical path to reflect the light and selecting a particular wavelength of light from the range of wavelengths by altering the optical path through displacement of a micro-actuator.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of selecting the particular wavelength from a range of wavelengths comprising the range of from about 1520nm to about 1560nm.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 13, 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,252). Claims 10-12, 14 and 20 have been similarly rejected over Lang et al. and further in view of Fouquet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,434,874).